

Trisha A. Morg



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From:  
Sent: **ORIGINAL**  
To:  
Subject:

Deborah Babb [we5babbs@msn.com]  
Thursday, March 12, 2009 10:47 AM  
Stump-Web  
APS rates

Dear Mr. Stump,

I remember, months ago, reading articles in the paper about the APS rate increases, and both the ACC and APS were insisting the increase would be minimal. We are a family of 5 (two children being under 4), living in a 2 bedroom/ 1 bath home. We keep the house at 80 degrees or more in the summer, and almost never run the heat in the winter. Despite this, our energy costs were higher than our friends and neighbors because our very old A/C unit was not effective. This fall, we replaced it with a new energy-efficient model. We just couldn't wait to see the electricity bill go down! What we got instead was a letter from APS stating that our automatic monthly payment of \$230 was increasing to \$269. This is not from an increase in our energy usage. If anything, we have a decrease! Yet our monthly bill increased \$39. That is \$468 a year. Do you see that means we are paying for more than TWO WHOLE MONTHS of energy usage that we are NOT receiving? Paying the APS bill every month has never been an easy thing to do, but when we have to squeeze in two more months' worth of payments, I just don't see how you think that's something we won't notice.

I am a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling my three children. My husband works a physically demanding job that most men shy away from, yet he works 50 to 60 hours a week. He gets paid well, yet if he worked only the 40 hour work week, we wouldn't be able to pay our bills. We don't have a flat-screen t.v. or ti-v, and we don't go on vacation or eat out at restaurants. We don't even have to pay for college educations or braces or broken legs yet, and we're just barely making it. The ACC and APS imply this is just a "minimal increase" on our APS bill for this "average family". But we're having increases in all of our costs. I cringe at having to go to the grocery store. We're paying more for food, gas, clothes, and sales tax than ever before. Our medical insurance, car insurance, home insurance, property tax, federal tax, and state tax, and the countless other taxes we pay: Up, up, up.

We're a family that is doing everything the way we're SUPPOSED to do it. We're not receiving welfare, we're living within our means, we're paying our taxes, and we're obeying the laws. But every time we turn around, some big guy tells us he wants more from us or else, and it gets harder and harder to pay. Can you please explain to me why you think it is fair for us, and all of Arizona, to pay so much more for so much less?

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Deborah Babb  
Yuma, AZ

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

MAR 19 2009

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